

LISTING OF THE CLAIMS

1. (Currently amended) An apparatus comprising:

a buffer for storing indications of events generated by a peripheral device, events include at least one of any of the following: an interrupt; an internal flag; a status indication of completion of a the read operation; an indication that a new header is waiting; an indication that a packet header is ready; an indication triggered at an end of header processing, a descriptor, or a set of descriptors; a completion indication as a received packet which includes an acknowledgment; an indication of reception of a frame for transmission; an indication that a EventMask bit is cleared, an indication that the EventMask bit is cleared; an indication that a predetermined minimum number of event completed, said apparatus for transferring indications of events from the peripheral device to a host computer system, and

a controller having a preset condition for an application, said preset condition comprising one of: a determination that the buffer is full; a determination that at least a predetermined plurality of indications is stored in the buffer; a predetermined period has elapsed; and a determination that at least one indication is stored in the buffer and that a predetermined period has elapsed, said controller for, in response to a preset condition being met based on said indications, generating a control data block from the indications of events information stored in the buffer and the control data block comprising a payload portion having a plurality of fields each corresponding to an LCP channel and a header portion having an identifier for identifying the control data block, and sending the control data block to the host computer system via an LCP channel.

2. Canceled.

3. (original) An apparatus as claimed in claim 1, wherein the preset condition comprises a determination that at least a predetermined plurality of indications is stored in the buffer and that a predetermined period has elapsed.

4. Canceled.

5. (Previously presented) An apparatus as claimed in claim 1, wherein the header portion comprises a count indicative of the number of indications included in the payload portion.

6. (original) An apparatus as claimed in claim 1, wherein the header portion comprises a time of day stamp.

7. (original) An apparatus as claimed in claim 1, wherein the buffer comprises a first in - first out memory buffer.

8. (Currently amended) ~~A communications device comprising the~~ The apparatus as claimed in claim 1 ~~further comprising a communications device.~~

9. (Currently amended) ~~A The apparatus as claimed in claim 8 wherein the communications device comprises a data communications network interface comprising the communications device as claimed in claim 8.~~

10. (Currently amended) An apparatus as claimed in claim 1, further comprising:
a host processing system having a memory, a data communications interface for communicating data between the host ~~processing computer~~ system and a data communications network, wherein the apparatus forming a data processing system for controlling flow of indications of events ~~interrupts~~ from the data communication interface to the memory of the host processing system.

11. (Currently amended) A method comprising transferring indications of events ~~interrupts~~ generated by a peripheral device to a host computer system, the peripheral device having a plurality of ports, the steps of transferring indications of events ~~interrupts~~ comprising:

storing indications of events ~~interrupts~~ generated by said peripheral device in a buffer;

determining if a preset condition is met, said preset condition comprising any of: a determination that the buffer is full; a determination that at least a predetermined plurality of indications is stored in the buffer; a predetermined period has elapsed; and a determination that at least one indication is stored in the buffer and that a predetermined period has elapsed, ~~said controller for, in response to a preset condition being met based on said indications;~~

in response to the preset condition being met, generating a control data block from the indications of events information stored in the buffer and the control data block comprising a payload portion having a plurality of fields each corresponding to a different LCP channel and a header portion having an identifier for identifying the control data block; and

sending the control data block to the host computer system via an LCP channel.

12. Canceled.

13. (Currently amended) A method as claimed in claim 11, wherein the step of determining if the preset condition is met comprises determining if at least a predetermined plurality of indications is stored in the buffer and if a predetermined period has elapsed, indications ~~indications~~ include at least one of any of the following: an interrupt; an internal flag; a status indication of completion of ~~a the~~ read operation; an indication that a new header is waiting; an indication that a packet header is ready; an indication triggered at an end of header processing, a descriptor, or a set of descriptors; a completion indication as a received packet which includes an acknowledgment; an indication of reception of a frame for transmission; an indication that a EventMask bit is cleared, an indication that the EventMask bit is cleared; an indication that a predetermined minimum number of event completed.

14. Canceled.

15. (previously presented) A method as claimed in claim 11 ~~42~~, wherein the header portion comprises a count indicative of the number of indications included in the payload portion.

16. (original) A method as claimed in claim 11, wherein the buffer comprises a first in - first out memory buffer.

17. (Currently amended) A computer program product comprising a computer usable medium having computer readable program code means embodied therein for causing transfer of indications of events ~~interrupts~~, the computer readable program code means in said computer program product comprising:

computer readable program code means for causing a computer to effect a buffer for storing indications of events generated by a peripheral device, events include at least one of any of the following: an interrupt; an internal flag; a status indication of completion of ~~a~~ the read operation; an indication that a new header is waiting; an indication that a packet header is ready; an indication triggered at an end of header processing, a descriptor, or a set of descriptors; a completion indication as a received packet which includes an acknowledgment; an indication of reception of a frame for transmission; an indication that a EventMask bit is cleared, an indication that the EventMask bit is cleared; an indication that a predetermined minimum number of event completed, said apparatus for transferring indications of events from the peripheral device to a host computer system; and

computer readable program code means for causing a computer to effect a controller having a preset condition for an application, said preset condition comprising one of: a determination that the buffer is full; a determination that at least a predetermined plurality of indications is stored in the buffer; a predetermined period has elapsed; and a determination that at least one indication is stored in the buffer and that a predetermined period has elapsed, said controller for, in response to a preset condition being met based on said indications, generating a control data block from the indications of events ~~information~~ stored in the buffer and the control data block comprising a payload portion having a plurality of fields each corresponding to an LCP channel and a header portion having an identifier for identifying the control data block, and sending the control data block to the host computer system via an LCP channel.

18. canceled.

19. (Currently amended) An article of manufacture comprising a computer usable medium having computer readable program code means embodied therein for causing transfer of indications of events ~~interrupts~~, the computer readable program code means in said article of manufacture comprising:

computer readable program code means for causing a computer to store indications of events ~~interrupts~~ generated by a peripheral device in a buffer;

computer readable program code means for causing a computer to determine if a preset condition is met, said preset condition comprising any of: a determination that the buffer is full; a determination that at least a predetermined plurality of indications is stored in the buffer; a predetermined period has elapsed; and a determination that at least one indication is stored in the buffer and that a predetermined period has elapsed, ~~said controller for, in response to a preset condition being met based on said indications;~~

in response to the preset condition being met, computer readable program code means for causing a computer to generate a control data block from the indications of events ~~information~~ stored in the buffer and the control data block comprising a payload portion having a plurality of fields each corresponding to a different LCP channel and a header portion having an identifier for identifying the control data block; and

computer readable program code means for causing a computer to send the control data block to the host computer system via an LCP channel.

20. (Currently amended) A program storage device readable by a machine, tangibly embodying a program of instructions executable by the machine to perform method steps for transferring

indications of events ~~interrupts~~, said method steps comprising the steps of:

storing indications of events ~~interrupts~~ generated by a peripheral device in a buffer;

determining if a preset condition is met, said preset condition comprising any of: a determination that the buffer is full; a determination that at least a predetermined plurality of indications is stored in the buffer; a predetermined period has elapsed; and a determination that at least one indication is stored in the buffer and that a predetermined period has elapsed, ~~said controller for, in response to a preset condition being met based on said indications;~~

in response to the preset condition being met, generating a control data block from the indications of events ~~information~~ stored in the buffer and the control data block comprising a payload portion having a plurality of fields each corresponding to a different LCP channel and a header portion having an identifier for identifying the control data block; and

sending the control data block to the host computer system via an LCP channel.

21. (Currently amended) An apparatus as claimed in claim 1, wherein:

~~the preset condition comprises at least one of:~~

~~a determination that the buffer is full;~~

~~a determination that at least a predetermined plurality of indications is stored in the buffer and that a predetermined period has elapsed; and~~

~~determination that at least one indication is stored in the buffer and that a predetermined period has elapsed;~~

the header portion comprises a count indicative of the number of indications included in the payload portion;

the header portion comprises a time of day stamp; and

the buffer comprises a first in - first out memory buffer.

22. (Currently amended) An apparatus as claimed in claim 21, further comprising:

a host processing system having a memory, a data communications interface for communicating data between the host ~~processing computer~~ system and a data communications network, wherein the apparatus forming a data processing system for controlling flow of indications of events ~~interrupts~~ from the data communication interface to the memory of the host processing system.